

been formed for each of the six specialties selected for study and these joint Committees had severally submitted a basis of qualification. The Central Committee of Council is coordinating these several reports.

Council authorized the President to take the necessary legal steps toward amending the Charter to provide for registration of Specialists.

The dates and method of conducting the examinations was again under serious review and the question was referred to the Committee on Examinations for a survey and study.

The usual heavy amount of routine business was disposed of and Council adjourned after a meeting of four hours' duration.

On the afternoon of June 19th the President and Mrs. Young entertained at a tea in the Nova Scotian Hotel to which were invited by card all Fellows resident in the Maritime Provinces. The function proved most enjoyable and was largely attended.

Letters, Notes and Queries

Progress in the Association

To the Editor:

A few days ago I paid a visit to the office of the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College Street, Toronto. On that occasion I was greatly pleased when informed that the scheme of the Federation of the Provincial Medical Associations with the Canadian Medical Association was now an accomplished fact in the case of seven of the nine provinces.

I learned on my visit that the medical associations of Manitoba and New Brunswick had not yet made a declaration to join up with the other associations already federated with the Canadian Medical Association. I am sure all know my views on this important question, often expressed in letters and at meetings. At my age, I cannot hope to have many opportunities to take part in medical association efforts to better the conditions under which the profession shall be destined to carry on its great work. But, while I have energy of body and clarity of mind I desire to further the interests of the medical profession as I may understand how this may best be done. One of the efforts along this line that seems clearly divested of any element of doubt is to recommend to the medical associations of Manitoba and New Brunswick to make the federation of the Provincial Medical Associations with the Canadian Medical Association unanimous.

Steadily medical problems are becoming more and more national in their bearing and outlook.

Answers to letters appearing in this column should be sent to the Editor, 3640 University Street, Montreal.

Already we have the Dominion Medical Council, whose diploma an ever-increasing number are securing. Towards the passing of the Dominion Medical Act, as the Editor of the *Canada Lancet*, I gave a full and unwavering support.

There is also the Medical Protective Association organized under the auspices of the Canadian Medical Association. The formation of this association also received my unreserved support. It has accomplished much for its members.

The work of the hospitals throughout Canada is now materially aided by the Canadian Hospital Council. This movement claimed, and still claims, my support.

Health questions of vastly important natures are bound to come up for consideration. It is in such matters that the wisdom and strength of all shall count. But the other day Archdeacon F. G. Scott, the much loved padre of the Canadian soldiers, delivered to them during their great reunion, a remarkable address on these great words in the Book of Proverbs "Where there is no vision the people perish". May the medical profession not lose its opportunities for lack of "vision".

May I close with the following words from Lord Francis Bacon: "I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavour themselves, by way of amends, to be of help and ornament thereunto".

JOHN FERGUSON.

15 Spadina Road, Toronto,
August 4, 1938.

Topics of Current Interest

The National Cancer Institute (U.S.)

A bill establishing a National Cancer Institute as a division of the United States Public Health Service has passed both houses of Congress. It will become a law when signed by the President. The bill creates a National Cancer Advisory Council and enlarges the functions and resources of the Public Health Service with respect to the study and treatment of cancer. To house the proposed institute, the Secretary of the Treasury is empowered to acquire suitable land in or near the District of Columbia and the appropriation of \$750,000 for the erection and equipment of buildings is authorized. An annual appropriation of \$700,000 is authorized for maintenance and operation. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized, too, to accept gifts and bequests to further the work of the institute. All this, moreover, is not to replace but to supplement such authority and appropriations relating to the study of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer as the Public Health Service and other agencies of the United States